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LIMDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. EGYPTIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS NOT YET "NORMALIZED"

SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO CAIRO POLYAKOV TOLD AMBASSADOR EILTS THE FAHMY-GROMYKO MEETING IN SOFIA WAS ONLY PRELIMINARY AND THE SOVIETS STILL DO NOT FEEL THE GOE HAS DONE ENOUGH TO WARRANT NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. POLYAKOV ALSO SAID:

- --A SECOND FAHMY-GROMYKO MEETING IS POSSIBLE, BUT NOT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE.
- --EGYPT'S POSTURE DURING THE JANUARY BILATERAL TRADE PROTOCOL TALKS WILL SIGNAL ITS INTEREST IN IMPROVING RELATIONS.
- --THE USSR EXPECTS EGYPT TO SATISFACTORILY REDUCE ITS SECRET

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LARGE INDEBTEDNESS.

- --THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT RESUMED ARMS OR SPARE PARTS SHIPMENTS TO EGYPT.
- --EGYPTIAN POLICY, WHICH STILL TILTS MARKEDLY TOWARD THE US, SHOULD BE MORE BALANCED BETWEEN THE TWO SUPER-POWERS. (CONFIDENTIAL) CAIRO 16883, 12/8.)
- 2. JAPANESE ECONOMIC POLICY: NO YEN FOR CHANGE

EMBASSY TOKYO PREDICTS LITTLE CHANGE IN JAPANESE ECONOMIC POLICY DESPITE THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY'S LOSSES. ECONOMIC POLICY MANAGEMENT, HOWEVER, MAY BECOME MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE PERMANENT PROFESSIONAL BUREAUCRACY. THE EMBASSY FURTHER EXPECTS THAT:

- --THE DIET WILL PASS A SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET TO STIMU-LATE BUSINESS ACTIVITY, PROBABLY BY THE END OF JANU-ARY.
- --FUKUDA MAY HAVE TO BOW TO THE DESIRE OF SOME OPPOSITION ELEMENTS FOR A TAX CUT TO PRESERVE THEIR SUPPORT ON KEY ISSUES.
- --THE GOVERNMENT IS LIKELY TO SHY AWAY FROM INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AGREEMENTS WHICH REQUIRE DIET CONSIDERATION, FAVORING INSTEAD BILATERAL OR MULTILATERAL INFORMAL ARRANGEMENTS.
- --JAPANESE POLICIES TOWARD ALL IMPORT-SENSITIVE PRODUCTS WILL PROBABLY BECOME EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO CHANGE.
- --TOKYO WILL NOT PASS UP THE OPPORTUNITY TO HOST THE NEXT ECONOMIC SUMMIT, DESPITE THE ENORMOUS PROBLEMS IT ENTAILS. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 18146, 12/9.)
- 3. JIDDA: SOVIETS MAY HAVE LOST OPPORTUNITY IN THE GULF

EMBASSY JIDDA BELIEVES THE SOVIETS HAVE MADE A MAJOR MISSECRET

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TAKE IF, AS EMBASSY MOSCOW SUGGESTS, RECENT RUSSIAN PRESS ATTACKS AGAINST SAUDI ARABIA INDICATE MOSCOW HAS ABANDONED ITS DRIVE FOR BETTER RELATIONS WITH THE GULF STATES.

SAUDI OPPOSITION TO COMMUNIST DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION IN THE GULF HAD SOFTENED RECENTLY AS THE SAG SOUGHT TO DEMONSTRATE ITS INDEPENDENCE OF THE US. BUT VEHEMENT ANTI-SAUDI ATTACKS IN MOSCOW'S NEW TIME, WHICH PRODUCED SHARP EDITORIAL COUNTERATTACKS IN SAUDI ARABIA, MAY HAVE STIFFENED

OPPOSITION TO THE USSR. (CONFIDENTIAL) JIDDA 7912, 12/8 AND (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) MOSCOW 18840, 11/1.)

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4. ITALY: PCI OFFICIAL EYES THE FUTURE

A RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI) TOLD EMBASSY ROME THE PARTY:

--IS ENCOUNTERING PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF LEADERSHIP DISAGREEMENTS OVER STRATEGY, UNION OPPOSITION TO THE PCI'S SUPPORT OF AUSTERITY PROGRAMS, AND IMPATIENCE AMONG THE RANK AND FILE;

--MUST ACHIEVE A GOVERNMENTAL ROLE GRADUALLY, IN ORDER TO FORESTALL POPULAR REACTION; AND

--WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY IN THE SPRING, BUT DELAY FORMAL ENTRY INTO THE GOVERNMENT UNTIL LATER.

THE OFFICIAL CONCLUDED WITH THE HOPE THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION MIGHT OPEN A NEW ERA IN PCI/US RELATIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL ROME 19986, 12/8.)

5. PRC: TENG'S REHABILITATION SUCCEEDING?

COMMUNIST PUBLISHER FEI I-MIN TOLD CONGEN HONG KONG DECEMBER 7 HE BELIEVED TENG HSIAO-PING'S REHABILITATION WAS NOW ONLY A MATTER OF TIME, AND THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIM HAD BEEN MANIPULATED BY THE "GANG OF FOUR" IN ORDER TO ATTACK HUA KUO-FENG. MEANWHILE, CHINESE SOURCES TOLD THE WEST SECRET

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GERMAN EMBASSY IN PEKING AN EXHIBIT, PLANNED FOR JANUARY, WILL PROVE THE "GANG OF FOUR" ENGINEERED LAST APRIL'S RIOTING IN TIEN AN-MEN SQUARE IN ORDER TO JUSTIFY THE DISMISSAL OF TENG AND SIDETRACK DEMONSTRATIONS IN FAVOR OF CHOU EN-LAI. IF SUCH AN EXHIBIT OCCURS, IT WILL BE THE MOST EXPLICIT INDICATION YET THAT EFFORTS TO REHABILITATE TENG ARE SUCCEEDING. (CONFIDENTIAL) HONG KONG 14215, 12/8 AND PEKING 2514, 12/7.)

6. SARKIS NAMES TECHNOCRAT TO FORM NEW GOVERNMENT

PRESIDENT SARKIS HAS NAMED SALIM AHMED HUSS, AN AMERICAN-EDUCATED TECHNOCRAT, AS PRIME MINISTER OF LEBANON. HUSS, A SUNNI MOSLEM, IS EXPECTED TO NAME A PRAGMATIC, NON-POLITICAL CABINET RESPECTING THE TRADITIONAL ALLOCATION OF POSTS AMONG LEBANON'S FEUDING RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES AND TO OBTAIN QUICK PARLIAMENTARY CONFIRMATION. BRILLIANT AND SELF-EFFACING, HUSS WAS REPORTEDLY UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT BECOMING PRIME MINISTER AND WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO WORK FULL TIME ON RECONSTRUCTION. (CONFIDENTIAL) BEIR'T ,;7;. 12/9.)

7. SINGAPORE CRITIQUES THE NEW THAI GOVERNMENT

SINGAPORE'S DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER GOH TOLD VISITING ADMIRAL WEISNER AND AMBASSADOR HOLDRIDGE THAT THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT:

- --WAS NOT "UNHAPPY" WITH THE CHANGE OF REGIMES IN THAILAND, AS THE NEW GOVERNMENT GAVE PROMISE OF BEING ABLE TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH BOTH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND THE INSURGENCY;
- --WAS STILL WORRIED ABOUT THANIN, WHO LACKS THE POLITICAL EXPERIENCE NECESSARY TO RUN A GOVERNMENT;
- --HAS AGREED TO ASSIST THAILAND IN REORGANIZING THAI INTELLIGENCE, TO BETTER COPE WITH COMMUNIST SUBVERSION; AND
- --HAS WARNED THANIN AGAINST WHOLESALE ARRESTS OF SUS-PECTED SUBVERSIVES AND URGED HIM TO CONCENTRATE ON KEY SECRET

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LEADERS RATHER THAN EXPENDABLE FOLLOWERS. (SECRET) SINGAPORE 5520 (LIMDIS), 12/8.) ROBINSON

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